

When: January 11, 2020 (Start at 9, end by 5:00pm)

Location: Chesterbrook, PA (Embassy Suites @ Valley Forge)

Start time **9:15** am.

1. **Appointment of Secretary – TG Powell**
2. **Roll call**
3. **Review agenda**
4. **Treasurer Report (Jim) - 15 min**
5. **Rules Committee / Rules Proposals (David Allen, Gary Noll) – 1 hour**
6. **Regionals – 30 min**
7. **Nationals Update – 15 min**
8. **Vote on Officials – 20 min**
9. **Break for Lunch**
10. **AWSA East Regional Committee Reports - 60 min**
11. **AWSA National Committees - 90 min**
12. **AWSA President Message – 30 min**
13. **AWSA Executive Item: (Jim Powell) 10 min**
14. **AWSA/USA Water Ski Executive Items (Doug Robbins) – 15 min**
15. **AWSA Board Meeting January 25,2020 – Agenda found here...**
16. **Regional Recommendations** (non-rule related) – 15 min
17. **Proposed 2021 Winter Meeting Date**
18. **Group Photo**
19. **Adjourn by 5:00pm**

Details Below...

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| Name | Representation | PRESENT |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Powell, Jim | EVP | Yes |
| Haines, Hutch | National Director | Yes |
| Robbins, Doug | National Director | Yes |
| Noll, Gary | National Director / Council – PA | No |
| Byrne, Pat | USA Water Ski Director | Yes |
| Byrne, Matt | Council – CT | No |
| Warner, Dan | Council – CT | Yes |
| Brandau, Brett | Council – DE | Yes |
| Allen, Dave | Council – MA | Yes |
| ??? | Council – MD | No |
| Robbins, Dave | Council – ME | No |
| Behner, Scott | Council – NH | Remote |
| Fosbenner, Bill | Council – NJ | Yes |
| Vosburgh, George | Council – NY | Yes |
| Rudy, Dean | Council – NY | Remote |
| Davis, John | Council – PA | Yes |
| Bickel, Jon | President – PA (non-voting) | No |
| Merchant, Wick | Council – VA | Yes |
| Melnik, Karen | President/Council – VA | Yes |
| Campfield, Justin | Council – VT | Remote |
| Epstien, Bruce | President – VT (non-voting) | No |
| Ingram, Sam | Council – WV | No |
| Allebach, Paul | HND (non-voting) | No |
| Baker, Bill | HND (non-voting) | Yes |
| Corson, Bob | HND (non-voting) | No |
| Hammel, Roger | HND (non-voting) | Remote |
| Lohr, Steve | HND (non-voting) | Yes |
| Thacher, Jon | HND (non-voting) | Yes |
| Stansberry, Jerry | HND (non-voting) | No |
| Maurer, Tonya | HND (non-voting) | No |

Additional Membership Attendees:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| TG Powell (Jr. Development) – VA Yes | John Paulovich – NY Yes |
| Chip Shand (Tech Controllers) -- VA Yes | Don Christman Yes |
| Al Harris (Boat Drivers) – VA Yes | John Wilkins Yes |
| Ann Lohr Yes | Chip Debus – PA Yes |
| Ralph Hall Yes | Cole Mauer – CT Yes |
| Becky Bartlett (Team Commissioner) –NH Remote | Don Nichols – DE Yes |
| Lisa Mizanas – PA Yes | Ron Ramsay – VA Yes |
| Marie Baker – PA Yes | |
| | |

Total Attended: 34 people attended representing 9 of our 14 states.

A brainstorming sessions was held at breakfast the following morning. Attendees of the brainstorming session were: Jim Powell, TG Powell, Bill Baker, Ralph Hall, Al Harris, Doug Robbins, Dave Allen, Jon Thacher, Ron Ramsey, Chip Debus, John Paulovich, Steve Lohr, Wick Merchant, and Karen Melnik. Discussions from this session are included in the notes, but are shaded.

Yellow: Actions and Votes

GREEN: Motions and East Region Recommendations

BLUE: Decisions from brainstorming session held after the meeting was adjourned

Official start time **9:15** am.

- 1) **Appointment of Secretary – TG Powell**
- 2) **Roll call**
- 3) **Review agenda**
- 4) **Treasurer Report (Jim) - 15 min.**

Becky Bartlett is our treasurer elect. In order for banking to work properly we must be on USA Waterski tax ID #. With new banking laws, an employee of USA Water Ski must make banking changes. Since Becky was elected at the summer meeting, we have been working with USA WS to get her on the account. On Monday, everything should finally be sorted out.

Are we going to do an audit this year? Consensus is that we should find someone to do an audit on the finances.

a. Review 2019-year end

If you total up standard payments, we spend around 7k a year, plus this year another 3k for special expenses. We get about \$7055 from sanction fees. When we make these special expenses, that comes from reserves. We had a decrease in funds this year. Is this something we expect to continue – we cannot continue to do this year after year.

b. Budget Items for 2020

- i. Clinic instructors need to send Becky an email with a list of clinic attendees asap at the completion of each clinic. She will cut a check for HQ covering the \$10 per participant.
- ii.

5) **Rules Committee / Rules Proposals (David Allen) – 1 hour**

- a. **See Rules Committee Report attached** – rules committee meeting went smoothly. Items heavily discussed to split G4/B4. Majority felt should be split. In the end the rules committee recommended that it be sent to the board, especially determining when to have this take effect.

The rules committee put forward 37 proposals – many administrative. IWWF reduced W4 slalom from 34 to 32. From AWSA perspective, there is no need to change anything because zero bases scoring (ZBS) accounts for being able to do this. There was no discussion at the national rules committee meeting about holding jump speed until ride out buoy in jump. Also discussed at length, in tricks, with a reverse, if the original tricks are no credit, then the reverses are scored as the original trick. For junior age divisions, we need a consensus on when the changes should go into effect. At the Executive committee meeting, there was discussion for making a recommendation to implement it this year. There was agreement that the divisions should be split. The Exec committee suggested we implement this year and get past all the confusion this year when we are already splitting the G2/B2 divisions, rather than waiting. There is a caveat there, there needs to be a discussion with Mark Crone about the technical issues that have been created by the implementation of the B2 G2 split. There are 2 issues – do we want it to be effective immediately, and are we able to implement it. **In favor 8, opposed 3. Passes. Make change for 2020 ski year12 in favor, 0 opposed.**

IWWF has made a change that there is no rule against the pin person manipulating rope release, but at the same time shortened the length of the rope release. **Whose responsibility is it to check the length of the rope release. How is this checked? Point out for discussion.**

There was a motion that all of the rules change proposals other than 2, 11, 14 & 20 be supported by the Eastern Region. The other items will be voted on individually. **Unanimously approved**

Approval to raise jump speed for some divisions.

Rule Change Proposal 2 – non placement skiers ski before. There were concerns about safety concerns in jump when non placement skiers ski prior to placement skiers. A 200 ft jumper could be first off the dock. For safety, we recommend that this not apply for jump, however, excluding jump from this would require a rules change request, and is actually not what this proposal is truly about. The rule book already includes the provision that non placement skiers ski before placement skiers. This provision would add a new section to the rules, 206e, adding a penalty for the skier if they ski in the improper place in the running order. This proposal makes it the skiers responsibility to make sure they are in the proper place in the running order. The skiers should still have to declare that they are not skiing for placement but are skiing for overall only. But should a skier risk being disqualified for unsportsmanlike behavior for following the running order (if scorer made a mistake for example)? We think not. This proposal needs to be sent back to rules committee. **We should send Rules Change Proposal 2 back to the rules committee to work on details. Vote to send back to committee: In favor 11, opposed 1**

11 – There was concern that we are introducing additional subjectivity of riding over vs grazing buoys with this proposal, which would be undesirable. We also feel that we need to have a diagram for turn buoys in the rule book like the one that is already there for gate buoys. The changes we talked about would need a rule change form. However, this proposal is actually just trying to clarify the rule so that it matches IWWF by putting the word **Turn** in front of word buoy. The standard is still significantly displacing the buoy. **Unanimous support for Rules Change Proposal 11.**

14 – Trick Release. Changing it from 1.25 meters to 1 meter. Question is how to manage, do we need to measure trick releases now? Rule proposal is to be in line with IWWF. They were never managed. **In favor of rule : favor 11, opposed 1**

20 -- Use of any boat in Fun Tournaments. Does this apply to all tournaments? , not specify that Class F can use non-tournament ski boats. Tournaments C and above can use any boat. Did anyone look at this from a risk management point of view? **At the meeting, Rules Change Proposal 20 should be marked for more discussion and sent to risk management before it gets approved.**

6) Regionals – 30 min. ***

- a. 2020 – Avon Old Farm Skiers – Report by Pat Byrne
Proposal looks very similar to what was done last year. A couple enhancements – Dan Warner, improvements to the slalom course. Biggest concern was short setup. Try out 8 buoy overlapping slalom courses. Looks more complicated, but get another 150 ft run in, no more hook turn. Working on submerging the extra balls during Regionals. Drivers will have one more thing to be concerned with. Need entry gate cameras. Exit gate camera is optional. Dan and Chip have been working on details.

We will highly encourage skiers to get there and do their site familiarization sets. Dan started the discussion shortly after Regionals. Once skiers tried it, it was very well received. Dan has video of skiers doing old course and new course to see the difference.

New enhancement, improvement to jump ramp. Bought brand new Beaman surface. Ramp has an extension, and Avon wants to use the longer ramp at Regionals. There was discussion about what the length of out of water will be at Regionals. Some other regions do not have longer ramp, so the rules committee may recommend that all Regions use standard out of water for jump at Regionals.

All else is similar to last year. Hotels will be Farmington Inn as host hotel. Avon Old Farms hotel was suggested, but Farmington Inn has better prices, and a full breakfast. It is very close, and construction is finished so will not be a problem this year. The deadline for tournaments is before the division split decision for B4/G4 will be made, but the number of skiers will be the same so the schedule will just need to add B5/G5 in the same place where B4/G4 are now.

The EVP thanked Avon for its 2 year bid for Regionals!

There was a recommend that we end the Regionals discount to juniors for lower entry fees for 1 year, and see what happens. Hutch made motion to eliminate the discount for juniors Dave Allen seconded. **9 for 3 opposed. PASSES**

There was a motion that in place of the junior discount, each state gets one free entry to Regionals, to be used for a 1st time Regionals participant. The entry is one per state, and the senior council person decides who it goes to, and the entry fee can be split between more than one participant. Brett Brandeau made Motion, Doug Robbins Seconded. The cost to be reimbursed by Regionals funds. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Notes on the schedule of events, the Regional meeting this year will be held on Thursday evening. The Junior Development party is on Friday because the amusement park is open later.

b. 2021-Bids?

No bids currently – will cover in new business.

7) Nationals Update – 15 min.

a. 2020 West Palm, Okeehetee (8/4/2020 - 8/8/2020)

b. From Exec Meeting

i. Nationals

1. Officials, -Drivers proposal-region will send 1 appoints and 2-3 assigned, assigned can be 1 or 2 eventers, if 1 eventers than encouraged to send 3, if 2 eventers send 2. Region to make sure all days are covered. Assigned drivers will split hotel. reimbursement based on 1 official. During the discussion, it was clear that the Eastern Region thinks this is a bad idea. You will get a single event drivers to Nationals this way. With 4 lakes, going on at same time and weather delays there are already many scheduling challenges. This will make it worse. We like the idea of getting new qualified drivers a chance to drive at Nationals. We like the part of this policy that allows two drivers to split up the week between then time wise to fill one driver spot, but do not like the part that allows single event drivers. There have not been any two event drivers that have been sent to Nationals. This is going down slippery slope for a LOC to be able to circumvent regional recommendations and choose drivers. We cannot control what the other regions do but we can send our appointed driver, and 1 assigned to Regionals. There was motion that the Eastern Region send two senior three event drivers to the nationals. **Jon Thacher Moved, seconded by Brett Brandeau – Approved Unanimously**

This topic was tabled for further discussion at the brainstorming sessions to be held at dinner later that evening, and at breakfast the following morning. At these brainstorming sessions it was reaffirmed that we should be sending 3 event drivers. More trick drivers are needed, as the Trick Event at Nationals needs at least 4 drivers at the same time and is a large drain of driving resources from a scheduling perspective. Having drivers that are not trick drivers appointed to Nationals from the regions will make this problem worse. It was noted that testers can influence the ability to advance to Senior Driver in only one event, by not allowing drivers to advance if they do not do all three events. We need to encourage more up and coming three event senior drivers.

AWSA need to have the policy for the chief driver at Nationals as part of the Drivers Policy Manual. We could get rid of these rules in the rulebook, and include them in the Drivers Policy Manual. It would include best practices for such as giving everyone a premier event, and balancing the total number of pulls between all of the drivers.

The recommendation to Jim as EVP was to push the message that the Eastern Region does not think it is right to send other than 3 event Senior Drivers to Regionals as appointed or assigned drivers. Because the Open Divisions at Nationals are now part of the Americas Cup, it already removes OM OW as assignments for the drivers Nationals, taking away 6 of the best division assignments from the pool of appointed and assigned by the Regions.

The EVP established a Nationals Officials Committee to discuss issues like this and to work on getting appointments for full representation of the Eastern Region at this years Nationals. Members of the committee are Bill Baker, Ralph Hall, Al Harris, Doug Robbins, and Dave Allen.

2. Trick panel -will happen again, each region will send 2 appointed and 2 assigned judges. 5th judge appointed by LOC. LOC will use 5 judges for tricks in order to rotate in non-trick panel officials.
3. 2020 other changes-no big dawg, awards right after each event, looking at possible 4-day event.
4. America's Cup- Friday, August 7th

8) Vote on Officials – 20 min.

a. Regionals Officials:

i. Judges (CJ, Dave Knight / ACJ, Dave Allen) ***

1. Bill Baker – pan am
2. Bill Cooper
3. Jon Thacher
4. Mike Shellhammer
5. Ralph Hall
6. Gary Noll – if available
7. Kevin Driggers – if available

ii. Drivers (CD Matt Byrne) ***

1. Brett Brandeau
2. Dan Warner
3. Cole Maurer

iii. Scorers (CScr, TG Powell/ACScr vacant) ***

We did not vote for scorers because there were not enough qualified nominees

1. *** Jennifer Frederick Kelly has since been appointed, Nick Leuheuser, a regular slalom scorer expressed interest
2. ??

iv. Safety (CSaf, Kathy Callan) ***

1. ASTCF Karen Melnik

v. Tech. Control

1. Chip Shand ***

vi. Announcers

1. Jim Powell ***

vii. Aspiring Official

1. John Paulovich
- viii. Registrar on-site
 1. Marie Baker ***
- b. Nationals Officials (**Judges** [2 appointed and 2 assigned]- **Scorers**-[2] - **Drivers**-[1 appointed and 2-3 assigned, *assigned can be 1 eventers, if 1 eventers CD suggest sending 3 if 2-3 eventers he suggest 2, either way all assigned will split reimbursement of 1 hotel for week, regions need to do best to have coverage each day, ideally these drivers are available each day but they are not fully obligated to be there sunup to sundown, if they want to split days that's fine but I would make sure 2 assigned are available each day*] - **Announcers** and **Safety**-[we are always short here so if you have anyone from your region who wants to be an appointed announcer or a safety let me know or George or Hank])
 - i. Judges
 1. Bill Cooper
 2. Dave Knight
 3. Ralph Hall
 4. ??
 - ii. Scorers
 1. Dave Allen
 2. ??
 - iii. Drivers
 1. Al Harris
 2. Marie Fields
 3. ??
 4. ??
 - iv. Announcer
 1. Jim Powell
 2. ???
 - v. Safety
 1. Karen Melnk
 2. ??

At the brainstorming session, it was decided that the newly formed Nationals Officials Committee would work on finding qualified officials willing to go Nationals and fill the East's currently unfilled slots. This will ensure full representation for the East at this year's Nationals.

9) Break For Lunch

10) AWSA East Regional Committee Reports - 60 min

- a. Regional States
 - i. CT (Pat Byrne) – Regionals coming up at Avon!
 - ii. DE (Brett Brandau) – several tournaments in the works.
 - iii. MA (David Allen) – Active tournament season
 - iv. MD - State Championship at Lake Cheney
 - v. ME Bob Marley tournament looking at having a state championship. Active show skiing.
 - vi. NH (Scott Behner) examining wake boats and affects on bodies of water. Trying to define any boat that has ballast, or makes wakes. Scott got a seat on this commission.
 - vii. NJ (Bill Fosbenner) Had 5 tournaments, 3 at Johns, 2 at Dividing Creek. Doing well
 - viii. NY (George) rumors could be junior development clinic next summer. NESS is on this year
 - ix. PA (Jon or John) 2020 will have 5 tournaments, 4 at Daves Pond. Williamsport tournament once a year in August.
 - x. VA (Karen Melnik) – lots of tournaments, Buskey Cider Cup fun tournament, Fun and C class.1st Lee Mershon Memorial tournament, Safety Clinic at Timberlake. Ken Meade pick and choose, 5 pulls. And Junior Development.
 - xi. VT - Justin two tournaments in Burlington.
 - xii. WV some skiing on deep creek lake

b. Regional Guidebook (Tonya Maurer) 15 min. ***

i. **Guide Book Due Date: 1/24/2020**

ii. **Motion by Tonya Maurer seconded by Wick Merchant to have the: 10 for 2 against PASSES**

1. 2020 guidebook, printed by Minuteman Press (Matt Byrne); with a cap cost of \$1,660 to the Eastern Region. Assumptions: only one guidebook is printed per household, that price includes postage. – Will say this is the last Regional Guide – last printed guide, will be available PDF from now on.

*****Received an email after the meeting from Matt Byrne. The \$1660 does not include postage. Need to rethink this and come back to Tonya with new ideas.

2. 2021 guidebook only available via PDF from the East Region Website. Anyone can print the PDF at their own cost; the guidebook will not be ‘mass’ printed.

c. Regional Jr Development (TG Powell) 5 min. ***

We had a great year for Junior Development in the East in 2019. Here is an overview of some of the highlights. Eastern Region week at Coble Ski School was from June 23-27 and was very successful. Junior Development clinics were held at 8 different lakes in Virginia, Connecticut and New Hampshire in 2019. The attendance at these clinics totaled 62 Juniors, although several juniors attended more than one of the clinics. The Eastern Region Junior Development has funds available to help with clinic expenses for Junior Development Clinics in 2020. Contact TG Powell at tg.powell@gmail.com for details. The Junior Development Party at Regionals was a great success. About 100 people – juniors and their families – attended the party at Lake Compounce. A big thank you to our 2019 Junior Development Sponsors for making this fabulous party possible – Jody Fisher Ski School, Goode Skis and Kaleidoscope Imprints. Eastern Region Junior Development Committee Members have been working with the National Junior Development Committee to update and revise the selection criteria for the National Junior Team and the Regional All Star Teams. *Eastern Region Junior Development Committee Members are TG Powell and Becky Bartlett. We could use a couple more members on the committee, contact TG Powell if you are interested.*

There was some discussion about the Junior Development budget running a deficit in 2019. The juniors party cost more, and fundraising was less than in past years. However, we have had surpluses in budget in the past few years that more that make up for the deficit this year.

d. Regional Nominating (Tonya Maurer) 20 min. *** Directors for Eastern Region are Doug Robbins on to 2021, Hutch on to 2020, Pat Byrne term scheduled to end soon. Right now there are qualifications to be a director on AWSA board, and she wants to expand the qualifications. Now have to server as a committee member from a state, or be a national committee member on a permanent committee. **To include participation or chairing on an AWSA or USA WSWs special committee with National Scope . . . see Tonya’s input**

- i. 1) Recommend that the qualifications for being an Eastern Region director be updated in the Policy and Procedures – add “or special committee” to section about standing committees for qualifications to be a national director. Can this committee vote on this to change the P&P , or do we need to send this to the Bylaws Committee. Motion by Nominating Committee.
 1. **Vote by BOD 9 for 0 opposed**
 2. Results passed
- ii. 2) Nominees for AWSA National Director 3 year term to expire in 2022
 1. John Wilkins
 2. Karen Melnik
 3. Ralph Hall – National Director
 - **Vote by BOD: Ralph Hall**
- iii. 3) Update the Policy and Procedures to align with USA WSWs Director Election Regional Rotation.
 1. **Vote by BOD Yes Unanimous**
- iv. 4) Reset the ER USA WSWs Director term to end in 2021
 1. **Vote by BOD Yes Unanimous**
- v. Alternate for National Director (Jon Thacher / Pat Byrne)

vi. **Vote by BOD: Alternate National Director is Karen Melnik**

e. Regional Records (Chip Shand) Report Attached 15 min. ***

i. Policy and Procedure changes

- ii. Paragraph 4.1.2. Chip has been recording records of people who ski primarily in the East. However, the way the Policy and Procedures read now, it is not specified what makes someone eligible to set an Eastern Regional Record. Several of our record holders ski primarily in the East, but are not legal residents of an Eastern Region state. There was discussion about how to express in writing what makes someone an Eastern Region skier, eligible to set an Eastern Region Record. Chip suggested that the P&P be amended to use the same language from the rule 4.03 in the AWSA Rulebook that determines which Regional Tournament a skier may ski in for placement in a given year. This is known as the 10 week rule, where a skier may ski for placement in the Regional Tournament for the region in which a skier does the majority of their skiing in the 10 weeks prior to Regionals. There was more discussion about the timing of a record being set in a tournament before Regionals in a given ski year, and if we would need to wait and see if a non-resident skier was eligible to ski in Eastern Regionals that year before the record could be made official. The intention is that it is not just your legal residence, but where you do your skiing that makes you part of the Eastern Region of the American Water Ski Association.

1. **Vote by BOD**

2. Results: Tabled to Brainstorming session

During the brainstorming session, Jon Thacher suggested the following wording for Paragraph 4.1.2 of the Eastern Region Policy & Procedures:

Only US citizens and either "legal" residents of the Eastern Region or skiers who were eligible to ski for placement at the most recent Eastern Regional Championship according to rule 4.03 may set regional records.

This wording was approved unanimously by all present at the Brainstorming session.

iii. records where speed changed, or ramp height changed

1. **Vote by BOD**

Results: For jump, all jump records are based on distance. **In Favor 11, Opposed 1**

There was a motion by John Davis, seconded by Dave Allen to use Zero Based Scoring for all slalom records. We do not need to make any adjustments based on speed.

Results: **Unanimous in Favor**

iv. records for new/changed divisions

1. **Vote by BOD**

For Masters Women National records, the score has to exceed the highest performance across the women's division. For the Eastern Region, we have not been following this, and we have Masters Women records that are lower than the highest women's record in an applicable age division. Motion that the Eastern Region will continue to accept records for MW and previous Eastern Region records for MW would stand.

For the new Junior Divisions (B2 and G2) – AWSA is maintaining Jake Ableson's B2 record as the record for the new B2 record, since he was of the age to be in the new B2 division when he set the record. For the other records, there have been benchmarks established that must be met to set a record in the new division. Chip recommended that the East follow same policy. East Region benchmarks would be the highest of the B1/G1 Regional Record and B2/G2 Regional Tournament winning score from the previous year for the division.

2. Results: Motion from Mike Shelhammer, Second by Brett Brandeau **Unanimous in Favor**

Doug Robbins made a motion that if there is a B4/G4 split, the East would implement the records policy the same as for the B2/G2 split Brett second. **Unanimous in Favor**

- f. Regional Search/Site (John Davis) 5 min. ***
Including 2020, 3 different sites have held Regionals in last 6 years, Lake Holly, Twin Lakes and Avon. Prior to that 2009 to 2013, two new clubs hosted Regionals, Vossberg and Rudy, and neither can do a bid in foreseeable future. Need a bid for 2021. There is a possibility for 2022 for Timberlake.
- g. Regional Tournament Coordinator (Bill Fosbenner) 10 min. ***
 - i. ER Tournament List attached. Only with dates are ones that are set. There were 53 tournaments last year. A few corrections were noted - Sparta Trick Tournament is June 28th not 27th. Maryland States is June 13. Get your sanctions in by January 24th so we can get in for guidebook prep.
- h. Regional AWSA Promotion and Outreach
 - i. Website and Social Media updates
USA WSWS is moving over to USOCP Website Hosting

11) AWSA National Committees

- a. Executive (Jim Powell) ***
 - i. Move a few I-pads around to new spots – not a huge success, may have at boat shows etc.
 - ii. Cost per region for constant contact so EVP's have email access is \$300 per year each **** **The Eastern Region is not in Favor of this.** 3 years ago, John Thacher made a recommendation to turn over this to the EVPs of each region. Board passed it – told executive director to give access – did not happen a year later. Last summer, still not done. Board still agrees. Constant Contact is a workable solution. But our EVP needs to be given more access to the handles on this so we can make our own campaigns and do these emails and do what we want. This \$300/year price tag is too high – can get mail chimp account for \$50 and do everything we need. There is no reason for this not to happen and not to be. It should not cost \$300 to send 5 emails.
 - iii. Announce nominations for selection of pan American TC rep for USA, voting will take place at summer AWSA BOD meeting.
 - iv. Find out how West Palm will handle trick and overall awards under proposed award presentation changes. (Awards immediately after each event).
 - v. Starting in 2021 start using more volunteer judges and scorers in order to cut down on hotel bill for LOC.
 - vi. **Form fund raising committee (Avoid asking same sponsors for support over and over from different angles) Polling committees for funding requests for each region. We do not think this is a good idea. We will do our own fundraising.**
 - vii. Find out if records can be set using ZBS - yes
 - viii. More explanation to donors on where fund raising money goes
 - ix. Get explanation from HQ on SD funding, some cells don't line up
 - x. Expand on PB stickers by starting with stickers for levels, i.e. 100-foot club, ran course for first time, tricked 1,000 – milestone stickers.
 - xi. Get class F vs class C+ rulebook to exec committee for review
 - xii. Partner with ski schools to create short member only videos of tips
 - xiii. Look into using Flip Smack for regional guide for a digital version
 - xiv. Work with HQ to assist in giving out free memberships to every person that buys a boat.
 - xv. Emphasis on new tournament formats. ie Wednesday Ski Leagues
 - xvi. AMBASSADOR/WHERE2WATERSKI.COM
 - xvii. ABILITY BASED SKIING... Where do we go with this? Handicap instead, Summer Series
 - xviii. Virtual Slalom Ski app
 1. Go to the App Store on your iPhone and download to play
 2. AWSA Funded the app
 3. Rate the app and send feedback

xix. Proposals

1. Proposal i. 2021 Jr Us Open Bid-SMRR
 2. Propose ii. Change workflow of sanctioning so LOC would not need EVP approval to add more rounds to a sanction - **Yes**
 3. Proposal iii. Allow 3 new ways for members to achieve class scores - **Y/N**
 - -Must have at least a supporting \$19.95 membership
 - -Can only achieve score up to Level 5
 - -Score will be considered class F scores
 - 1) Performance sign off -assistant judge or higher can sign off on a performance
 - 2) VSS APP -Can qualify for regionals via the VSS APP by having a score of X (asking Jennifer for a good value)
 - 3) Upload video -Can upload slalom and trick scores to VSS APP or AWSA drop box -Assistant or higher judges can go online and sign off on the scores and receive officiating credit. Scores will be uploaded to AWSA Rankings up to level 5. ***(There was concern about allowing judges to get credit for this since they may not attend tournaments if they can get credit just by going online.)***
 4. Proposal iv. Allow rankings to filter by class of score -Add class filters to rankings so we can filter by class F, C, L, R - **Y/N**
 5. Proposal v. Expansion of Wednesday Night ski Leagues into Nationwide AWSA Ski League - **Y/N**
 - -Form committee to promote and form events across the nation encouraging new skiers to try waterskiing
 - -Free sanctions for clubs that host an event
 - -Free guest membership to first time ski league skiers
 - -AWSA will create a national repository of videos and photos and use them for weekly contests, season contest, prizes
 - -Provide 3-4 formats for scoring and provide easy registration process
 - -Create ski league rankings list
- b. Awards (Hutch Haines) (5 min.) *****
- i. 2019 AWSA Athletes of the year
 - ii. Hutch would like to step down
 1. Who likes awards?
- Hutch wants to get off this committee. Easiest Committee assignment, only a few – Nominate Karen Melnik. Second Dave Allen. **Karen Melnik accepted appointment for Awards Committee**
- c. Boat Drivers (Al Harris) (10 min.) *****
- New fast path to tricks drivers if have rating at Slalom or Jump – at Regular or Senior, they can take Tricks exam, and get regular tricks rating. There is a committee to identify international drivers. We are piloting online driver clinics for maintenance only. Same material as an in person clinic.
- d. By Laws (Jeff Hardin) *** - see report email from Jeff Clark**
- i. Report Attached
 1. Seating of USA WSWS Directors Rotation already covered earlier in meeting
 2. Appeals – See Notes from Jeff Clark – trying to shorten up the timeline and limit ability for people to appeal – need to pay and take it to an arbitrator. We want to stop frivolous appeals. Any appeals to USA WS WS must have to do with USA WS WS rules.
- e. Insurance Advisory (Jeff Hardin) Report Attached ***** If you have insurance that covers an incident that occurs at a sanctioned event. Until you meet a \$1500 deductible, the USA WS WS insurance will not kick in. Average claim is about \$400 to \$500 dollars.
- f. IAC (Doug Robbins, Hutch Haines) 5 min. *****
- i. Upcoming international tournaments include the Junior Worlds at Corys (The east should be represented) The over 35 World Championships in France, and the Pan American Elite

Championships (TBD). Qualifications to be a team member will be posted after the winter meeting and board approval.

- ii. The IAC is also responsible for sending drivers and judges to international events. Anyone interested should contact Doug Robbins or Hutch Haines. 2020 has all been picked so the next selection will take place in November of this year.

Doug Robbins moved that we continue to fund juniors up to \$1500 for airline ticket, on a yearly basis. Per international event. Second by Brent. **VOTE: 10 for.** We Have skiers coming up. Funding them is good, support with logistics far greater – team manager and travel as team. Steve Lohr noted that his support for the 35+ Pan Ams was “Meet me in Peru.” There is a position called team manager, often one of the skiers. Some of the money should go for something like that. We have a hard time in IAC nobody volunteers for that spot. Need to fund someone like Jim Grew as team manager. However, this is an AWSA responsibility, not Eastern Region.

g. Judges & Scorers Qualifications (Dean Rudy) 5 min.

i. Acknowledge Advancing Officials

1. Mike Shelhamer – approved for Slalom and Jump test Administrator up to Sr.
2. Who else should be recognized? Encourage people to advance in officiating and encourage them when they do.

h. Safety (Pat Byrne) No Report ***

i. Seeding (Jennifer Frederick-Kelly) No Report ***

j. Show Skiing (Pat Byrne) No Report ***

k. Skiers Qualification (Dana Hinman) No Report

l. Technical (Chip Shand) highlight National BOD report 5 min. ***

TC Committee – if the B5/G5 divisions are approved and goes into effect now, records will go into effect but we will not publish records until after Nationals. Benchmarks will be established for these divisions after the 2020 ski year.

A World Record can be set at R Tournament if performed under IWWF guidelines

There are 2 new systems for boat path monitoring – use wifi 2k to 4k.

Handle checking block, IWWF uses 2 cm block, we use wider one for curved handles. Sites should continue to use current handle checking block.

Video Stopwatch available for download from USAWaterSki.org website – Thank you Chip!

Training video for Video Stopwatch also available in TC section.

Splash Eye new trick software to accommodate more video codecs.

Splash Eye Jump, software only. \$700 for software and video capture card. Only has 1 grid, USB for video input. Use your own computer. There is also a \$3000 option that includes computer and 3 grid capability.

m. Tow boats (Brett)

2020 boat testing. Mastercraft & Malibu brought new boats. Tested BTX for a towboat, not tournament. Autosteer function was tested. Handful of Garmin antennas with a firmware issue, and are working on a fix. It is an issue for about 5year old boats, if have issue, let Brett know. Know your towboat insurance requirements.

n. Waterways (Amy Craig) Report to be attached ***

If you have a water way issue, contact Amy Craig. MMMA, and WSIA are involved

12) AWSA President Message

a. Membership - 6679 members, up 17 YOY, 179 supporting up 10.

b. # of tournament skiers 3181, down 8

c. # of events 485, down 2

d. # of GR events 122, up 13

e. # of Class F skiers 146, doubled since 2016

f. # of juniors skiers, 705 down 23, # of 18-34 year old skiers 503, up 43.

g. Breakdown of skiers by region, by tourney class, by state, by event provided to EVP's if needed. (see attached)

All these efforts for new members are working. But there are many who are not continuing the membership. By end of 2020 will have new membership platform in place with automatic renewal.

Should allow some people who don't mind support, but do not bother to renew. When we talk about affinity membership kind of organizations, they have models that work. Problem is retention! Look at conversion of collegiate members after graduation.

13) AWSA Executive Item: (Jim Powell)

a. AWSA Executive Item: Teams @ Regionals/Nationals – 15 min.

i. 2020 Teams

1. Who will run team skiing in the region (Comish – Becky Bartlett)
2. What teams will make up the region (states/Areas, etc.) Working way shuffling teams to make teams more balanced. One, try to get points close, you have an opportunity to win it. Have as many teams as possible, with more spaces available on their teams.
3. Who will captain each of those teams – talking to expand juniors section of the teams – Boys, Girls, Men Women. Have everybody on that region be on the team, and the top performances on that team. Idea is to get people to come to. Everyone is on the team, score it that way.

The Teams discussion was tabled to the brainstorming session.

At the brainstorming session, several options were discussed for making the teams more balanced, and for making the team competition at Regional better and more entertaining and engaging for participants.

Suggestion that all skiers from a state be on the team, and the top 4 scores will count towards the team competition.

Have awards at the end of each day for teams.

Use team skiers NOPS to handicap the teams so that anyone can win.

Instead of using states, have kids be team captains and draft their own team.

Have awards for team spirit.

14) AWSA/USA Water Ski Executive Items (Doug Robbins) – 35 min. ***

- a. USA WSWS virtual office – discussion A year ago, problem out IT infrastructure. Our systems provider was not very good. So have IT advisory group. They did a good job getting it done right, New membership platform – went to an off the shelf package for USOC NGB with customization available. Will be implemented by year end. Prioritized for growth and retention – auto renewals. One other thing Nate Boudreaux did, source new website platform through USOC. Hosting of site is free. It will be like other NGBs. That will only be the front page. Ranking list remains unchanged. For every click on the site, USA Water Ski gets funding. Encourage friends to check ranking. Projecting between \$25k to \$50k to USA Water Ski. New host for our systems. Completely away from previous host. Some systems lower priority, like events sanctioning system.
- b. USA-WS Technology Systems Overhaul
- c. HQ Building on Holy Cow Road & Lake Myrtle Project Update – The USA WS WS Foundation is behind on fundraising. Cable Park and Restaurant is open. Tournament Lake is behind. Foundation launched a campaign recently. Current office ends in 2020. Our agreement with Earthlink for web expires in May. Will not extend or allow to go month to month. Once this expires, they will be going remote. Will be 100% remote for rest of the year, no HQ until new space is available. We do have some Polk County Sports space, Ring Central IP phone supplier, follow me function for virtual phone numbers. Will know more by the Summer meeting. There was a USOPC task force due to Congressional Inquiry Safe Sport related. Two main things affect us. 1 current 20% athlete representation will be bumped up to 35%. We don't have the bodies – will be same people on all the committees all the time. There are committees that do not have athletes on the committee.
- d. Safe Sport Update – were required once every 4 years – those are now to be done annually. We have 3 open safe sport cases with USA WSWS 2 are not in AWSA, 1 is. We did send out a letter to all our members about safe sport and encourage people to look at it and report misconduct. SafeSport is creating modules for the kids. More resources will be available. It is independent. We do not know details. Recent survey, over 60% response. 86% of respondents know about Safe Sport. We have over 4k members taken certification course online. Required for people on board, coaches, staff. Eventually will be required of all officials. Etc.
- e. Notes from USA WSWS Exec. Director (attached)
USA WS WS financials for the year are behind right now – financial officer was going to retire but got sick first. Nate got a grant to hire someone to help with compliance with SafeSport audits.
Appointed insurance task force to look at competitive quotes from insurance brokers. Current broker told not moving forward with them, intense time of getting new insurance. We remained with some revisions to our old broker arrangements.
- f. Nautique is giving less sponsorship, \$ down, and reduced promo program. A \$5/skier fee to pay to boat owners at tournaments has been suggested. No details clear yet. Sent back to towboat committee to refine.

- g. Sponsorship – we have a reliance on our sponsors. One his initiatives is to go to non-endemic sponsors, instead of market one event, looking at a championship series sponsorship approach. All disciplines together for a larger package.
- h. Apparel supplier for bigger events. They will work with you on the design. They do it for you, and you still get the money. They would even staff it if the event is big enough.
- i. New voting allocations. AWSA has picked up one more seat on USAWS board, up from 2 to 3.

15) AWSA Board Meeting January 25,2020 – Agenda in meeting packet

16) Regional Recommendations for AWSA Meeting (non-rule related) – 15 min ***

- a. EVP: Motion to cancel the Constant Contact service that will cost each region \$300/yr. and still requires a USA WSWs employee to send. No benefit over the previous system where they would review and forward our emails.
- b. Request for a rules change to all rules associated with Level 10 – See attachments
- c. EVP: Motion to convert the assistant judge/scorer/driver to an on-line entry process – no more paper or PDFs
- d. EVP: Motion to convert the clinic registration form into an excel version that can be easily uploaded to the ‘database’ – reduce effort at HQ
- e. From Corey Vaughn - USA Waterski explore an online way to collect State Federation dues – Similar to what is done with the IWWF dues.
- f. Explore the cost – as we eliminate regional guides and membership cards, for new members, we should still send them something physical in the mail. New members get something.

17) EVP discretionary \$ in budget

- i. **MOTION** from Ralph Hall: Grant the EVP access to \$1,000 in 2020 for Membership Engagement activities.
 - 1. Rationale is that funds are needed to reach out to new and existing membership in different ways to expand engagement.
 - 2. Seconded - John Davis
 - 3. **Vote - Unanimous**

18) Regional Sanction Fees – When last time we increased the Regional Sanction Fees. Do we want to increase it for next year? **Increase sanction fees for 2021. Figure how much at the summer meeting.**

19) Proposed 2021 Winter Meeting Date – Saturday, January 9, 2021. Marie has already secured the room here at the Embassy Suites Valley Forge.

20) (GROUP PHOTO)

21) The meeting was adjourned with the taking of the group photo at 5:15pm